

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:PLLAASE:VF
APPROVED BY E:RNCOOPER
EUR/RPE:ACALBRECHT
TREASURY:LWIDMAN
EUR:AAHARTMAN
CEA:CSCHULTZE
EB:RRYAN
FRB:CSIEGMAN
EA:EHEGINBOTHAM
S/S-O :AHOTTO

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R 242011Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL OECD CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119592

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (EPC) CHAIRMANSHIP

1. PRESENT EPC CHAIRMAN, SIR DOUGLAS ALLEN OF UK, WILL
BE RETIRING AT THE END OF 1977. THIS FACT IS ALREADY
WIDELY KNOWN AND SEVERAL POSSIBLE CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED HIM
HAVE APPEARED ON SCENE:

A. BELGIUM HAS FORMALLY PROPOSED PLANNING COMMISSIONER
ROBERT MALDAGUE;

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B. THE NETHERLANDS HAS ORALLY INFORMED US AND OTHER OECD
DELEGATIONS THAT TREASURER GENERAL C. J. OORT IS INTERESTED;

C. AUSTRALIA HAS INDICATED THAT DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY
J. O. STONE WOULD BE AVAILABLE IF THERE IS "GENERAL INTEREST"
IN HAVING HIM ELECTED; AND

D. CANADA'S ASSOCIATE DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER WILLIAM C. HOOD "IS AVAILABLE."

2. A GROUP OF MAJOR OECD COUNTRIES AND OECD SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP WOULD LIKE CEA CHAIRMAN CHARLES SCHULTZE

TO SUCCEED ALLEN AS EPC CHAIRMAN. CHAIRMAN SCHULTZE IS AGREEABLE, PROVIDED THAT HE CAN CONTINUE AS US SPOKESMAN AT THE EPC. THIS CONDITION IS ACCEPTABLE TO VAN LENNEP, WHO REPORTEDLY BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL THAT SCHULTZE MAKE US PRESENTATION AT EPC MEETINGS. SCHULTZE WILL NOT RPT NOT CAMPAIGN FOR EPC CHAIRMANSHIP AND HAS ASKED THAT USG REFRAIN FROM ANY LOBBYING ON HIS BEHALF. VAN LENNEP WILL CONTACT OTHER KEY EPC COUNTRIES. WE SEE NO PROBLEM WITH SCHULTZE BEING BOTH EPC CHAIRMAN AND MAKING US PRESENTATION, SINCE HE COULD TURN CHAIR OVER TO ONE OF EPC VICE-CHAIRMEN DURING US PRESENTATION.

3. US AND OTHER MAJOR OECD COUNTRIES CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT EPC CHAIRMAN BE FROM ONE OF OECD'S "BIG SEVEN" COUNTRIES (CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, UK, US). AS EXPLAINED IN ENCLOSURE TO STATE A-718 OF FEBRUARY 24, 1977, EPC HAS INFORMAL, RESTRICTED "BUREAU" WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS LIMITED TO EPC CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTATIVES FROM "BIG SEVEN" COUNTRIES, AND OECD SECRETARY GENERAL. RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP PERMITS SENIOR POLICY OFFICIALS FROM KEY COUNTRIES TO HAVE CANDID INTERCHANGE ON IMPORTANT ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES. EPC CHAIRMAN FROM OUTSIDE "BIG SEVEN" WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT USEFULNESS OF "BUREAU" BY OPENING IT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SMALLER OECD COUNTRIES.

4. ABOVE IS FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN CASE EMBOFFS ARE APPROACHED BY HOST GOVERNMENT (OR OTHER OECD COUNTRY) REPS SEEKING US SUPPORT FOR A CANDIDATE FOR EPC CHAIRMAN. IN SUCH CASE YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT VAN LENNEP HAS ASKED IF CEA CHAIRMAN SCHULTZE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EPC CHAIRMANSHIP AND INDICATE THAT WE EXPECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE 14-15 EPC MEETING. PLEASE DO NOT RPT NOT REFER TO EPC "BUREAU," SINCE SOME OF SMALLER OECD COUNTRIES ARE APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE.

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